Media Policy

458. SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA- Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Communication policy is proposed to be restricted to the formation of the code of ethics for the press;

(b) whether it is .a fact that the Media Policy have a comprehensive approach on all aspects of the growth of the press in the conn try;

(c) whether it is proposed to make use of technological changes and the advances made in the electronic media for furthering the growth and modernisation of media as a whole; and

(d) whether Government propose to support the seminar to be organised by the All India Newspapers Editors Conference on the Media Policy in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL), (a) to (d) The Media policy is still under formulation. It will be finalised after consultation with all concerned.

Non-release of non-levy Sugar by Mill owners

459. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD;

SHRI CHATURANAN: MISHRA.

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA;

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that price of sugar has risen in the market to the great hardships of the consumers;

(b) whether it is also a fact t'nat the sugar mill owners are not releasing non-levy sugar in order to raise prices;

(c) what quantity of sugar has been imported and what is its price; and

(d) what steps have been taken to control sugar prices?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH), (a) With the decline in sugar production to 59.16 lakh tonnes in 1983-84 season and to about. 61 lakh tonnes in 1984-85 season from the record production of abaut 84 and 82 lakh tonnes in 1981-82 and 1982-83 seasons and continuous increase in internal consumption from 1981-82 on wards, there has been some increase in t'ne prices of sugar in open market.

(b) Necessary measures have been taken to ensure that the deliveries of sugar by the sugar factories against the monthly free sale quota are in accordance with the statutory provisions. The lapse against the free sale qiVota released for June, 1985 was about 3 per cent only.

(c) To ensure adequate availability of sugar for interna! consumption it has been for the present decided to import 10 lakh tonnes of sugar in the financial year 1985-86. The average C & F prices for the sugar which has so far been contruc--ted for import by the State Trading Cor poration works out to about Rs. 2000/- per tonne. The quantity of imported sugar arrived upto 19-7-1985 is about 2.39 lakh tonnes.

(d) Major quantity out of 10 lakh tonnes of sugar to be imported is being allocated to the State Governments 'for distribution in open market through con trolled channels at below Rs. 6 per k.g. and Food Corporation of India is also selling stocks against auction/tender in open market. Moreover, State Gov ernments have been advised to ensure thai the wholesale licensed dealers comply with the statutory provisions relating to stock holding limits, 10-day turn over period etc., and suitable action has also been taken for ensuring that the sugar factories undertake sales and despatches of free sale sugar in accordance with the statutory requirement. As a result of these measures as als,3 libera] releases of free sale and levy sugar for internal con sumption, the prices of sugar are expected to be maintained at reasonable levels.